

California Horse Racing Board

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**REPORT OF THE BOARD OF STEWARDS
LOS ALAMITOS QUARTER HORSE RACING ASSOCIATION
TO THE CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING BOARD**

Honorable Gavin Newsom, Governor
Honorable Chuck Winner, Chairman
Honorable Madeline Auerbach, Vice Chairman
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Honorable Gregory L. Ferraro, Member
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Jacqueline Wagner, Assistant Executive Director
John McDonough, Chief Counsel
Darrel McHargue, Chief Steward

Report of the Board of Stewards for the week of September 3, 2019 through September 8, 2019.

Tuesday
9/03/2019

(1) DUTY STEWARD

Ron Church will be responsible for morning business and will record the minutes during this reporting period.

(2) CAL-BRED REPORT

The fourth race in the book, California Bred Maidens Three and Up for an \$8,000 tag, was called off with two. 0 Cal-Breds.

Wednesday
9/04/2019

(1) ENTRIES AND DECLARATIONS

Steward Ron Church was in attendance today to oversee entries for Saturday, September 7, 2019 and declarations for Friday, September 6, 2019. Church will continue with these duties for the remainder of the week.

(2) CAL-BRED REPORT

The fourth race in the condition book, for California Bred Three Year Olds and Upward, claiming \$2,500. The race was called off with no entries.

Thursday
9/05/2019

(1) DUTY STEWARD

Steward Church was once again on hand to supervise office related matters.

(2) CAL-BRED REPORT

The fourth race in the condition book, for California Bred Three Year Olds and Upward, claiming \$12,500. The race was called off with no entries.

(1) EARLY DECLARATIONS-REFUNDS

1st Race #3 Chocolatita For Me (Tr. F. Gonzalez) – Unsound – Becky Fitzgerald, D.V.M.
Refund \$490.00

(2) MENDEZ RULING #229

Ruling # 229

JOCKEY CRUZ MENDEZ, WHO RODE “CUTHROAT” IN THE FIFTH RACE AT LOS ALAMITOS RACE COURSE ON SEPTEMBER 1, 2019, IS SUSPENDED FOR THREE RACING DAYS (3) (SEPTEMBER 13TH, 14TH AND 15TH, 2019) FOR FAILURE TO MAKE THE PROPER EFFORT TO MAINTAIN A STRAIGHT COURSE, CAUSING INTERFERENCE WHICH RESULTED IN THE DISQUALIFICATION OF HIS MOUNT FROM FIRST TO SECOND POSITION. THIS CONSTITUTES A VIOLATION OF CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING BOARD RULE #1699 (RIDING RULES-CARELESS RIDING). PURSUANT TO CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING BOARD RULE #1766 (DESIGNATED RACES), THE TERM OF SUSPENSION SHALL NOT PROHIBIT PARTICIPATION IN DESIGNATED RACES.

The foregoing ruling was issued after Mr. Mendez reviewed the fifth race on Sunday, September 1, with the Stewards when his mount was responsible for a disqualification. Mr. Mendez had no excuse for his actions and admitted his guilt when his horse drifted in and made significant contact with an inside rival.

(3) GONZALEZ MEDICATION HEARING (CASE #19LA0165)

Trainer Felix Gonzalez was in the office this evening for an informal hearing regarding the post-race sample taken from his horse “Baby Special Corona”, the first place finisher in the fifth race at Los Alamitos Race Course on July 6, 2019. The sample showed a level of 35.8 mg/ml of Dimethylsulfoxide, which is over the allowable level of 10 mg/ml of the medication. Mr. Gonzalez testified that his veterinarian administered Dimethylsulfoxide to his horse on entry day, approximately three days prior to the day of the scheduled race. As no other defense was offered, the hearing was adjourned. Decision to follow.

(4) GONZALEZ RULING #230

After a discussion of Mr. Gonzalez’s testimony and a review of his medication history, the following ruling was issued.

Ruling # 230

TRAINER FELIX GONZALEZ, WHO STARTED THE HORSE “BABY SPECIAL CORONA”, THE FIRST PLACE FINISHER IN THE FIFTH RACE AT LOS ALAMITOS RACE COURSE ON JULY 6, 2019, IS FINED FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$500.00)* PURSUANT TO CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING BOARD RULE #1887 (TRAINER OR OWNER TO INSURE CONDITION OF HORSE) FOR VIOLATION OF CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING BOARD RULES #1843 (A & D) (MEDICATION, DRUGS AND OTHER SUBSTANCES), AND #1843.1(B) (PROHIBITED DRUG SUBSTANCES) AND #1844(F)(6) (AUTHORIZED MEDICATION-DIMETHYLSULFOXIDE (CLASS IV) (35.8 MG/ML) IN EXCESS OF AUTHORIZED LEVEL (10 MG/ML).

(5) VIRAMONTES MEDICATION HEARING (CASE #19LA0168)

Trainer Rodolfo Viramontes was contacted via telephone to address the above referenced case. Mr. Viramontes waived his right to a formal hearing regarding the post-race sample taken from his horse, “Kates Bowtie”, the ninth place finisher at Los Alamitos Race Course on July 19, 2019. The sample showed a presence of the medication Dexamethasone, a prohibited medication at any level in a post-race test. Mr. Viramontes accepted responsibility explaining that he trains his horses from a ranch in Long Beach and ships in to Los Alamitos twenty-four hours prior to the day of his races. Mr. Viramontes also testified that he supervises the training activities at the ranch, but is not present on a daily basis and he relies on the ranch veterinarian to administer his medications. He could not offer any other reasoning for the medication. Mr. Viramontes was cautioned that relying on his ranch veterinarian is a very risky practice and the hearing was concluded. Decision to follow.

(6) VIRAMONTES RULING #231

Ruling # 231

TRAINER RODOLFO VIRAMONTES, WHO STARTED THE HORSE "KATES BOWTIE", THE NINTH PLACE FINISHER IN THE FOURTH RACE AT LOS ALAMITOS RACE COURSE ON JULY 19, 2019, IS FINED FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$500.00)* PURSUANT TO CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING BOARD RULE #1887 (TRAINER OR OWNER TO INSURE CONDITION OF HORSE) FOR VIOLATION OF CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING BOARD RULES #1843 (A, B & D) (MEDICATION, DRUGS AND OTHER SUBSTANCES), AND #1843.1(A) (PROHIBITED DRUG SUBSTANCES) AND #1844.1 (AUTHORIZED MEDICATION-DEXAMETHASONE (CLASS IV)).

Following an informal hearing and evaluating Mr. Viramontes medication history and testimony presented, the foregoing ruling was issued.

(7) CLAIM VOIDED- THIRD RACE

The claim deposited in the third race by trainer Jesus Nunez for #2 Annitasheaven was voided after Official Veterinarian Gary Beck reported the horse was unsound and would be entered on the vet's list. The horse was returned to the barn of trainer Keith Craigmye.

(8) REFUND- FOURTH RACE

A refund was ordered after #2 Chancer (Jockey V. Bednar) flipped over hitting the racing surface during the loading process and Racing Veterinarian Fitzgerald recommended that the horse be declared, resulting in a refund of \$13,187.00. The rider and horse were uninjured.

(9) ACCIDENT-INQUIRY-NO CHANGE

The inquiry sign was posted after the fifth race to review an incident that happened shortly after the finish. #1 Wambui (Jockey Vinnie Bednar) lugged out to put the #2 Louisiana Times (Jockey Jose Nicasio) in tight quarters and caused that rider to check sharply as the #3 He Better Fly (Jockey Carlos Huerta) shifted in slightly causing #2 to clip his heels and unseating her rider. After reviewing the video replays and determining the incident occurred after the finish of the race, the Stewards decided unanimously to make the original order of finish official.

(10) RIDER EXCUSED

Jockey Jose Nicasio was excused from his mount in the sixth race as he was unseated from his horse in the prior race. A replacement rider was named.

(11) DAILY ATTENDANCE & HANDLE

On track	461	\$67,482.80
Off track	1,771	\$301,744.90
Out of state	N/A	\$579,468.55
Total	2,232	\$948,696.25

Saturday
9/07/2019

(1) NUNEZ MEDICATION HEARING (CASE #19LA0155)

An informal hearing was held today to address the above complaint alleging a dexamethasone positive in one of Mr. Nunez's runners, (El Angel Corona). Nunez stated that he does not have Naquasone or any other medications in his barn and all medications are administered by his veterinarian, he could offer no other explanation. The hearing was concluded. Decision to follow.

(2) EARLY DECLARATIONS

1ST Race- #2 Maz Konata (Tr. R. Lucas) – Entered Back – Stewards. Refund \$147.00
6th Race- #4 Tarzanita (Tr. Y. Rodrigues) – Entered Back – Stewards. Refund \$109.00

(3) VIDEO REVIEW

Jockeys Vinnie Bednar and Carlos Huerta were in the office this afternoon to review the fifth race from last evening, where their mounts were involved in an inquiry. After reviewing video of the incident and discussing the action of the riders, the Stewards unanimously voted that both riders made a valiant effort to control their mounts and were dismissed.

(4) RULINGS #232 AND #233

Ruling # 232

JOCKEY JUAN PABLO LEON IS FINED THREE HUNDRED AND FIFTY DOLLARS (\$350.00)* FOR VIOLATION OF CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING BOARD RULE #1688(b)(6) (USE OF RIDING CROP-MORE THAN THREE TIMES IN SUCCESSION, WITHOUT GIVING THE HORSE A CHANCE TO RESPOND-FOURTH OFFENSE WITHIN THE PREVIOUS 60 DAY PERIOD), DURING THE RUNNING OF THE FOURTH RACE AT LOS ALAMITOS RACE COURSE ON SEPTEMBER 6, 2019.

Ruling # 233

JOCKEY JONATHAN ROMAN IS FINED ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY DOLLARS (\$150.00)* FOR VIOLATION OF CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING BOARD RULE #1688(b)(6) (USE OF RIDING CROP-MORE THAN THREE TIMES IN SUCCESSION, WITHOUT GIVING THE HORSE A CHANCE TO RESPOND-SECOND OFFENSE WITHIN THE PREVIOUS 60 DAY PERIOD), DURING THE RUNNING OF THE FOURTH RACE AT LOS ALAMITOS RACE COURSE ON SEPTEMBER 6, 2019.

The preceding rulings were issued after Jockeys Leon and Roman did not offer any excuse for violating the crop rule.

(5) RULING #234

Ruling # 234

JOCKEY ERASMO GASCA, WHO RODE "IMA FIVE BAR CARTEL" IN THE SEVENTH RACE AT LOS ALAMITOS RACE COURSE ON SEPTEMBER 6, 2019, IS FINED THREE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$300.00)* FOR VIOLATION OF CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING BOARD RULE #1688 (B)(2) (USE OF RIDING CROP-POST PARADE).

The foregoing ruling was issued after the rider did not have a plausible excuse for striking his horse during the warm up period.

(6) INQUIRY-FIRST RACE-DISQUALIFICATION

Following the running of the first race, the inquiry sign was posted for a review of interference near the sixteenth marker involving the winner #5 Yes I'm Wild (B. Harvey) and #6 Loan Sharky (4th- C. Franco).

After talking with the riders involved and reviewing the recorded views, #5 was disqualified from first to fourth. The recordings show #5 drifting out into the path of #6 causing that rider to check sharply and lose momentum. In a unanimous decision of the Stewards, #6 was impeded to the extent that he was cost a better placing.

Original Order of finish 5-4-3-6-1
Official Order of finish 4-3-6-5-1

(7) RIDER EXCUSED

Ramon Sanchez was excused prior to his first mount of the evening as the Clerk of Scales reported that he was cramping up after trying to pull weight. Replacement riders were named.

(8) LATE DECLARATIONS-EIGHTH RACE

#8 Fashion Icon (Tr. M. Fales) was declared after CHRB Veterinarian Gary Beck contacted the Stewards and reported the horse sick. The horse was placed on the vet's list. Refund \$628.00.

(9) DAILY ATTENDANCE & HANDLE

On track	785	\$124,875.90
Off track	1,828	\$354,028.90
Out of state	N/A	\$599,611.93
Total	2,613	\$1,078,516.73

(1) HARVEY RULING #235

Ruling # 235

JOCKEY BARRINGTON HARVEY, WHO RODE "YES I'M WILD" IN THE FIRST RACE AT LOS ALAMITOS RACE COURSE ON SEPTEMBER 7, 2019, IS SUSPENDED FOR THREE RACING DAYS (3) (SEPTEMBER 15TH, 20TH AND 21ST, 2019) FOR FAILURE TO MAKE THE PROPER EFFORT TO MAINTAIN A STRAIGHT COURSE IN THE STRETCH, CAUSING INTERFERENCE WHICH RESULTED IN THE DISQUALIFICATION OF HIS MOUNT FROM FIRST TO FOURTH POSITION. THIS CONSTITUTES A VIOLATION OF CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING BOARD RULE #1699 (RIDING RULES- CARELESS RIDING).

PURSUANT TO CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING BOARD RULE #1766 (DESIGNATED RACES), THE TERM OF SUSPENSION SHALL NOT PROHIBIT PARTICIPATION IN DESIGNATED RACES.

The foregoing ruling was issued after Jockey Harvey viewed the first race from Saturday evening with the Stewards. His mount was disqualified from first to fourth, as he could not offer a convincing excuse, stating that he was unaware of the horse to his outside when his mount was drifting out.

(2) FRANCO RULING #236

Ruling # 236

JOCKEY CESAR FRANCO, WHO RODE "WHAT ABOUT DINGY" IN THE THIRD RACE AT LOS ALAMITOS RACE COURSE ON SEPTEMBER 7, 2019, IS FINED THREE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$300.00)* FOR VIOLATION OF CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING BOARD RULE #1688 (B)(2) (USE OF RIDING CROP-POST PARADE).

The preceding ruling was issued after Jockey Franco failed to appear before the Board of Stewards as requested to answer to the above violation of the crop rule.

(3) ANDRADE RULING #237

Ruling # 237

JOCKEY OSCAR ANDRADE JR., WHO RODE "LONG TIME FAVORITE" IN THE FIFTH RACE AT LOS ALAMITOS RACE COURSE ON SEPTEMBER 7, 2019, IS FINED THREE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$300.00)* FOR VIOLATION OF CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING BOARD RULE #1688 (B)(2) (USE OF RIDING CROP-POST PARADE).

This ruling was issued after the rider reviewed the post parade of the fifth race from Saturday evening when he struck his horse with the crop during the warm up period. Jockey Andrade could not offer a valid excuse to exonerate himself of the violation.

(4) ARRIAGA RULING #238

Ruling # 238

JOCKEY JESUS ARRIAGA IS FINED TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY DOLLARS (\$250.00)* FOR VIOLATION OF CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING BOARD RULE #1688(b)(6) (USE OF RIDING CROP-MORE THAN THREE TIMES IN SUCCESSION, WITHOUT GIVING THE HORSE A CHANCE TO RESPOND-THIRD OFFENSE WITHIN THE PREVIOUS 60 DAY PERIOD), DURING THE RUNNING OF THE FOURTH RACE AT LOS ALAMITOS RACE COURSE ON SEPTEMBER 7, 2019.

The foregoing ruling was issued after Jockey Arriaga failed to contact the Stewards to defend his actions of violating the crop rule in the fourth race on Saturday evening.

(5) NUNEZ RULING #239 (REFER 9-07-19 #1)

Ruling # 239

TRAINER JESUS NUNEZ, WHO STARTED THE HORSE "EL ANGEL CORONA", THE SECOND PLACE FINISHER IN THE FIFTH RACE AT LOS ALAMITOS RACE COURSE ON JUNE 30, 2019, IS FINED SEVEN THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$7,500.00)* AND SUSPENDED FIFTEEN (15) DAYS (SEPTEMBER 16 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2019) PURSUANT TO CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING BOARD RULE #1887 (TRAINER OR OWNER TO INSURE CONDITION OF HORSE) FOR VIOLATION OF CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING BOARD RULES #1843 (A, B & D) (MEDICATION, DRUGS AND OTHER SUBSTANCES), AND #1843.1(A) (PROHIBITED DRUG SUBSTANCES) AND #1844.1 (F)(4) (SUSPENSION OF AUTHORIZED MEDICATION-DEXAMETHASONE).

After due deliberation of the testimony given and taking into consideration Mr. Nunez's lengthy medication history, the foregoing ruling was issued.

(6) EARLY DECLARATION-REFUND

3RD Race #6 I B Buzzin (Tr. J. Nunez) – Sick – Dr. Fitzgerald. Refund \$193.00

(7) RIDER EXCUSED

Jockey Salvador Iniguez was excused from his mounts this evening due to a morning training accident. Replacement riders were announced.

(8) LATE DECLARATION-REFUND

A refund was ordered in the third race as #4 Madame Mousse was declared unsound behind the starting gate and was declared on the recommendation of Racing Veterinarian Becky Fitzgerald. The refund amounted to \$5,289.00.

(9) FIFTH RACE OBJECTION/INQUIRY-DISQUALIFICATION

Following the running of the fifth race, trainer Paul Jones, trainer of #2 Wingn It (3rd C. Huerta) claimed an objection against #3 Drivven (2nd A. Cervantes) for interference at the start. After a thorough review of the tape replays, the Stewards unanimously voted to disqualify #3 from second to third. Video replays show #3 breaking in sharply and bumping #2 hard, knocking him off stride, costing that rival a chance at a better placing.

Original Order of Finish 5-~~3~~-2-4-1

Official Order of Finish 5-2-~~3~~-4-1

(10) DAILY ATTENDANCE & HANDLE

On track	555	\$79,682.20
Off track	1,621	\$259,410.60
Out of state	N/A	\$499,852.79
Total	2,176	\$838,945.59

TRACK SAFETY REPORT

The weekly inspection was conducted on September 8, 2019. There were no equine deaths to report this week. During this reporting period, 5 horses were added to the Veterinarian's List as follows: 2 for soundness, 1 for injury, and 2 for sickness. Ten horses previously on the Veterinarian's list were examined and removed from the list.

This report was submitted by Steward Ron Church

2019

SUMMARY

	Wed	Thurs	Fri 9/06	Sat 9/07	Sun 9/08	Week	Meet
Accidents	D		0	0	0	0	4
Cal-Bred Races	A		0	0	0	0	23
Claims	R		3	0	1	4	201
Disqualification	K		0	1	1	2	28
Inquiries		D	1	1	1	3	57
Refunds		A	2	3	2	7	324
Rulings		Y	3	3	4	10	238
Voided Claims		S	1	0	0	1	41

Stewards' Attendance: Stewards Ron Church, James Dreyer, Grant Baker and Safety Steward David Nuesch were in attendance during this reporting period.

Ron Church, Steward

James Dreyer, Steward

Grant Baker, Steward

David Nuesch, Safety Steward